

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PA-01
ICAE-00 /070 W
-----123255 131724Z /43 41

R 131511Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0033
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12158

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: THE CGT AND THE WFTU

REF: (A) PARIS 01106
(B) PARIS 34053 OF NOVEMBER 21; 32699 OF
NOVEMBER 8; 32043 OF NOVEMBER 2; 30894 OF
OCTOBER 17; 30287 OF OCTOBER 14; AND
A-226 OF JULY 18, 1977

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVE OF THE WFTU CONGRESS, THERE
HAVE BEEN SOME INSPIRED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE CGT
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INTENDS TO FIGHT, AT THAT GATHERING, TO INSURE THAT
THE DECLARATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS APPLIES TO
THE EASTERN EUROPEAN AS WELL AS CAPITALIST COUNTRIES.
HOWEVER, THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANYTHING NEW IN
THE CGT'S GENERAL POSITION, AND THIS RENEWED PUBLIC
AIRING OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEANS
AGAIN HAS MORE TO DO WITH ITS OWN IMAGE PROBLEM THAN

ANYTHING ELSE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 12, REPORTS APPEARED IN THE FRENCH PRESS THAT, AT THE UPCOMING PRAGUE CONGRESS OF THE WFTU, THE CGT INTENDS TO FIGHT TO INSURE THAT THE DECLARATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS APPLIES TO EASTERN EUROPEAN AS WELL AS CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. SOME OF THE NEWS ACCOUNTS EVEN IMPLIED THAT THE DECLARATION WAS A CGT DOCUMENT, WHICH THAT CONFEDERATION, AIDED BY THE ITALIAN CGIL OBSERVERS, WAS GOING TO INSIST BE ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS. OBVIOUSLY INSPIRED, THE STORIES ARE CLEARLY AIMED AT REPAIRING THE IMAGE OF THE CGT, BADLY DAMAGED BY ITS RECENT ALL-OUT ELECTION SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. THAT SAID, THERE ARE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE EASTERN EUROPEANS AND THESE MAY VERY WELL SURFACE IN PRAGUE. FOR SOME TIME, THE CGT HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE OBVIOUSLY SERVILE ROLE OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS; AND THE SHORT-COMINGS AND RIGIDITY OF THE WFTU ITSELF. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT LAST OCTOBER, THE CGT EVEN ISSUED A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT ON THE TRADE UNIONS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, IN WHICH IT WARNED IT WOULD NOT KEEP SILENT ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMAN RIGHTS THERE. (SEE PARIS 32043 OF NOVEMBER 2, 1977). THEN, AS NOW, THE PUBLIC AIRING OF THESE CGT CONCERNS CAME AT A TIME WHEN THE FRENCH UNION'S OWN INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE WERE UNDER QUESTION; AND ITS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE ERODING. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE CGT IS HURTING FAR MORE THAN IT WAS IN OCTOBER, AND IT MAY POSSIBLY SEEK SOME DRAMATIC OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS "INDEPENDENCE" AND "PROGRESSIVE" NATURE.

4. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, HOWEVER, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN CGT POLICY. A CLOSE READING OF THE DOCUMENTS AND POSITION PAPERS JUST RELEASED BY THE CGT (AND CITED IN THE PRESS AS THE BASIS, IN PART, FOR THEIR STORIES) INDICATE THAT THE CONFEDERATION'S LINE REMAINS AS HAS BEEN REPORTED:

-- CAPITALISM IS IN A PERIOD OF SUSTAINED CRISIS, WHICH PERMITS TRADE UNION COOPERATION AND UNITY OF ACTION, ON ALL LEVELS, TRANSCENDING IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS;

-- TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS "HISTORIC" OPPOR-
TUNITY, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE WFTU TO
TRANSFORM ITSELF, RADICALLY, AND MOVE AWAY

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-----124558 131724Z /43 41

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12158

FROM THE COLD WAR INSTRUMENT IT HAS BEEN,
BACK TOWARDS THE KIND OF UNITARY BODY IT
WAS WHEN IT WAS FOUNDED;

-- THE CGT'S OWN SPECIAL ROLE LIES IN EUROPE
AND WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS,
WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CGT TO
IGNORE VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS,
NO MATTER WHAT GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED; AND

-- THE CGT WILL FIGHT FOR ITS POINT OF VIEW

WITHIN THE WFTU.

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5. ACCORDING TO A CGT REPORT, ITS DELEGATION TO THE WFTU CONGRESS WILL CONSIST OF:

A. MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERAL BUREAU: GEORGES SEGUY, GENERAL SECRETARY; ANDRE ALLAMY, RENE DUHAMEL, JOANNES GALLAND, HENRI KRASUCKI, AND JEANINE MREST, SECRETARIES. SEGUY AND KRASUCKI ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

B. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION: MICHELLE DOUSSINEAU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CLOTHING WORKERS UNION; MARIE THERESE GONORD, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE LORRAINE DISTRICT FEDERATION; MARIE THERESE VALADAS, SECRETARY IN THE CADRE UNION; GILBERT JULIS, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

C. OTHERS: THERESE HIRSZBERG, SECRETARY, TEACHERS UNION; JACQUES TREGARO, SECRETARY, METALWORKERS FEDERATION; ALAIN GUINOT, SECRETARY OF THE CONFEDERAL YOUTH CENTER; ANNIE ABRAMOVICZ, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT; AND JEAN BRETEAU, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

D. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT JULIS AND TREGARO BOTH VISITED THE US IN 1977.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS12158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-0458
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780461/aaaabzsi.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 1106, 78 PARIS 34053
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2982103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE CGT AND THE WFTU
TAGS: ELAB, SOPN, PINT, FR, WFTU, CGT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9ef39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014